

EARLY IRONDEQUOT

EARLY IRONDEQUOIT

*A re-printing of
eighty-four of the pictures
which have appeared in
the Irondequoit Press.*

by Walter Sassaman

Published by
IRONDEQUOIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
in the Bicentennial Year

Second Printing - October 1978



TITUS AND COOPER. This is a picnic for the hired help at the end of the 1870 harvest on the Cooper farm at the NE corner of Titus and Cooper. Seated center are George Cooper and wife Pheobe, daughter of pioneer Mrs. Stephen B. Titus, seated in the doorway of the Cooper home. Standing behind George and Pheobe are their three sons: G. Titus, George Jr. and John M. The girl with the croquet mallet (Croquet was a dashing new sport in 1870) is Eugenie Titus, niece of wife Pheobe. Standing modestly right and left are the honored guests, the hired help. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman.



1917 DEMONSTRATION.... School students demonstrating for prohibition fill the body of this truck in an auto parade across Titus Avenue in 1917. Miss Maude I. West, then principal of the Ironde-

quoit Union Free School, the predecessor of the Irondequoit High School, is seated in the cab of the truck. (Photo from Town Historian's files.)



IRONDEQUOIT MEANT "FUN" ..a hundred years ago when this picture was taken you headed for Irondequoit when you wanted a good time. To get there you had your choice of walking, riding a carriage or taking the "City of Rochester" which then docked at the Glen House, a hotel built in 1870 down at the River's edge beneath what is now Maplewood Park. Midway you stopped at the Spencer House at the mouth of the Genesee in Charlotte to discharge and pick up passengers with maybe time enough for a quick one. Notice the Lincoln-like father with his little daughter; he's probably hoping that the photographer will get on with it before the "City" pulls out without them. They're heading for the Sea Breeze Hotel and this will be the first time the little girl sees the big lake. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman.



SATURDAY NIGHT ON THE FARM. According to family tradition this is a picture of John Carroll Leake about to take a bath in what in 1910 was a typical Irondequoit bath tub. Then in 1912 the town's first water main was laid along Culver-Ridge-

Hudson-Titus-Cooper-St. Paul Boulevard and running water reached the old Leake homestead at 3073 St. Paul Blvd. (Town Historian Walter Sassaman.)



THE IRONDEQUOIT MELON was the most famous of all the products grown in Irondequoit's market-gardens. But despite its superlative flavor our market-gardeners stopped growing it in the 1930s; the melon was "soft-nosed" and bruised disastrously when crops began to move by auto truck. Today not a single seed survives. Our picture shows Charles Ernise harvesting his 1924 crop at 1775 Portland Ave. (Walter Sassaman, Town Historian).



SANTA CLAUS rarely brings any child a pony these days but Princess was 10-year old Paul Graffrath's proudest possession when this picture was taken fifty-some years ago. Paul's family lived in the house on Titus near Cooper which is now Laura Barber's Beauty Salon. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Margaret Hallauer.)



THE FIRST CATHOLIC HOUSE OF WORSHIP in Irondequoit was St. George's Chapel, built in 1907 in Summerville on the south side of St. Paul Blvd., east of Beach Ave. It became the original St. Thomas the Apostle Church when a parish was established in 1922 with the Rev. John F. Muckle as Pastor. In 1926 the congregation moved to the present site of St. Thomas's. Finally in 1967 the old St. George's Chapel, long a Summerville landmark, was demolished. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Jack Stolp).



ST. PAUL'S ROOKIES are pulling Old Pumper No. Nine (George Keppler steering) from St. Paul Exempts on Thomas Avenue to the Fire House on Cooper Road. This is part of their initiation. They are now passing Seneca School and when they reach

the fire hydrant at St. Paul Blvd. each will receive a soaking. Our picture dates from the late 1940s. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Ross Muxworthy.)



IRONDEQUOIT HIT ITS STRIDE when the increase in Rochester's population made market gardening profitable. We had only one market gardener when Irondequoit split off from Brighton in 1839 but by the 1870s we were THE market garden town. Secret of this success was our sandy soil; long before anybody else's soil dried out our gardeners could get their planting done. Consequently Irondequoit produce got to market first and reaped a bonus price. Today the trucks bring us nearly all our produce and there are fewer than ten market gardeners in Irondequoit. Our picture was taken on a May morning in the early 1930s and shows Henry Miller (l.) and his father Charles (r.) setting onions on the Miller farm on St. Joseph Ave. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture courtesy of Chuck Miller).



Only 25 years ago the Titus-Hudson-Cooper area looked like this. Can you find along the north side of Titus the (1) old high school, (2) United Congregational Church on Hudson Avenue; (3) Dye Funeral Home; along the south side of Titus, (4) Muxworthy's

Hardware, (5) Lincoln Rochester Trust Co. with the Irondequoit Library in its basement, (6) Grange Hall, (7) Klem Service Station, and (8) Star Market. (Photo by courtesy of Henry DeWolf.)



SEA BREEZE PARK IN THE TWENTIES---When the Jack Rabbit (lower right) was new...when the Wildcat was another of the Park's four coasters...when the Lindy Loop (upper center) was

operating...and when street cars (upper left) brought the happy crowds for "a day in the park". By Walter Sassaman, Town Historian.)



ONE OF IRONDEQUOIT'S LOG CABINS----Built around 1838 by pioneer Francois Castuche (Costich) for one of his daughters, this log cabin stood on Brower Road (opposite Del Rio Drive) for one hundred years. Our picture dates from 1920 when

Louis Dubelbeiss took this snapshot of Mr. and Mrs. Hank Gruesch, who lived in the cabin for thirty years. (Photo by courtesy of George Costich Jr.)



EARLY IRONDEQUOIT MAIL CARRIER----The mail was carried in rural Irondequoit in the last century by rigs like this. Carrier George Grabb, in white shirt, tie and derby hat, hands a letter

to a young customer in ruffled shirt and high button shoes. (Photo courtesy of Irondequoit Historian.)



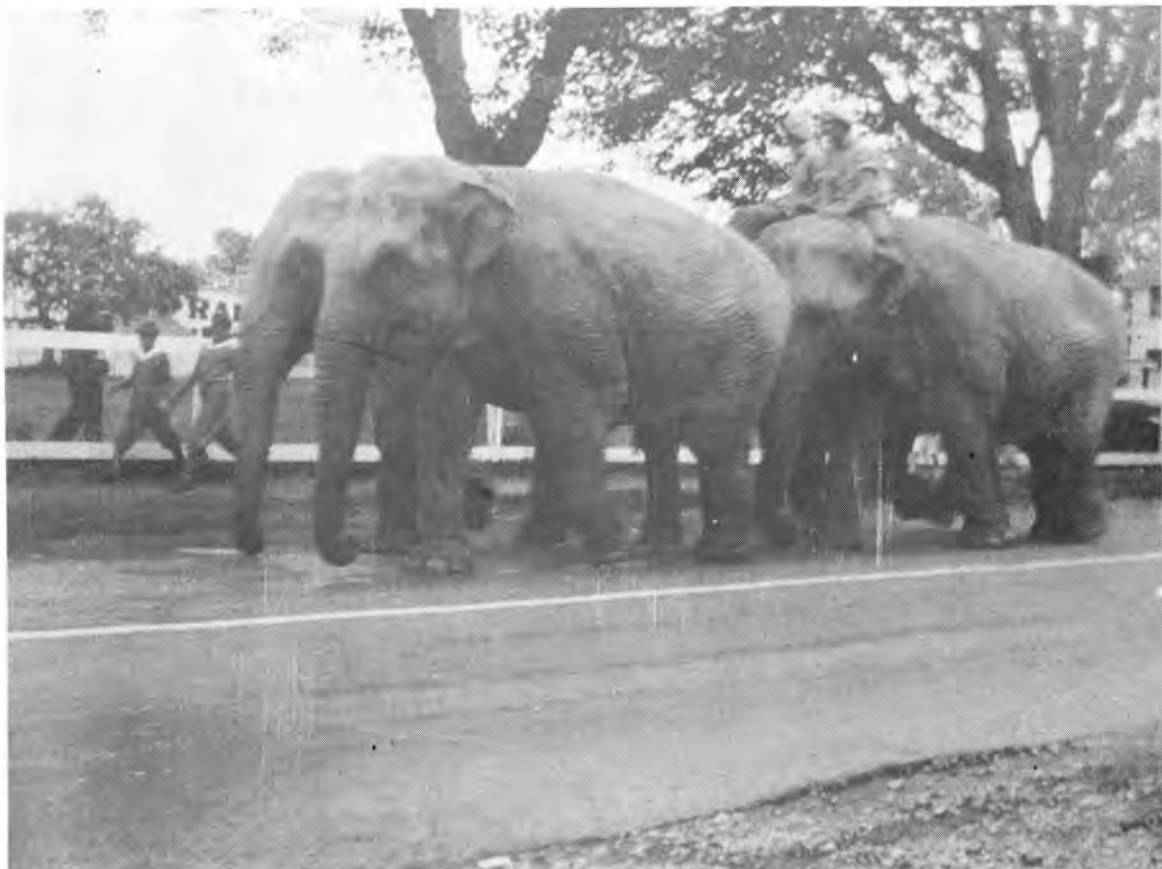
St. Cecilia's Church now stands where once the Brasser farmhouse stood. This picture taken in June, 1897, shows Jacob Brasser, daughter Olive (Mrs. Arthur Bell), wife Margaret Barbara

and daughter Minnie. (Photograph by courtesy of Jacob Brasser's granddaughter, Mrs. Elmer Heffer.)



PADDLING DOWN AISLE 5 IN WEGMAN'S----
Where the Irondequoit Plaza now stands there used to be three interconnected ponds: the Titus Pond where Sibley's is located, the Coy Pond on the site of Wegman's, and the Johnson Pond where the Green Stamp and other businesses

to the south of Wegman's have been built. This 1927 picture shows Mabel Johnson (now Mrs. Jacob Sattel) and her girl friend paddling on Coy Pond. Hudson Avenue is just the other side of the rise of land beyond the Pond. (Walter Sassaman, Town Historian.)



DOWN CULVER ROAD marched these elephants on their way to Sea Breeze Park. There they were scheduled to perform in the Park's popular twice-a-day "Free Show." This was all away back before

TV put an end to the days when little boys chased elephants down Culver Road. (Photo by courtesy of Mrs. Jane LeClair.)



WAITING FOR THE STREET car to take them to Rochester are Mrs. Leonard Strehle, Mr. Leonard Strehle and Miss Amelia Strehle. The fact that the snow is banked higher than their heads isn't keeping them from their shopping trip. Besides they won't have to wait very long; before everybody started driving automobiles street cars ran at frequent intervals. When they've finished shopping another trolley will bring them back to their home at 3227 St. Paul Blvd. En route they'll be visiting with other homeward bound Boulevardians while the motorman does the driving ... The world wasn't perfect in 1915 but nobody had to worry about salt, skidding or wild drivers: - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture is a very welcome gift from Mrs. Herbert Lauterbach.)



RIDGE ROAD AND KING'S HIGHWAY IN 1950----- J. B. Hunter's now stands where the Willis Duerr farm (lower left) and the Art Bell farm and roadside stand (lower center) stood only twenty years ago. At that time the site of Bishop Kearney High School was part of the Kenneth Duerr farm, located beyond the road running diagonally across

this picture, then called Parker Road and ending halfway to Titus Avenue. In 1951-52 the southern portion of Parker Road was extended to Titus Avenue, becoming what is now King's Highway. (Picture by courtesy of Mrs. Philip Perkins, caption by Walter Sassaman, Town Historian.)



THE GLENDALE RESTAURANT, located on Culver Road at the lake, was operated by Mrs. Belmont and Mrs. Glawe in the early 1900's. The establishment looked like this around 1910, and charged prices such as those on the menu below. Present

occupants of the building are the Cieslinski Heating Company of 4679 Culver.

(Photo from Mrs. Denzil P. La Rose).

SOUPS

Clam Chowder	5
--------------------	---

STEAKS

Porterhouse	60
Porterhouse with Onions	65
Steak with Onions	30
Small Steak	25
Hamburg Steak	20
Hamburg Steak with Onions	25
Pork Chops	25
Lamb Chops	30

Bread, Butter and Potatoes served with above orders

NEW YORK or BOSTON BAKED BEANS WITH COLD HAM

Side of beans with any meat or egg order, extra	5
---	---

EGGS

Two Fried Eggs	15
Two Poached Eggs	15
Two Scrambled Eggs	15
Two Boiled Eggs	15
Two Poached Eggs on Toast	20
Ham and Eggs	25

SANDWICHES

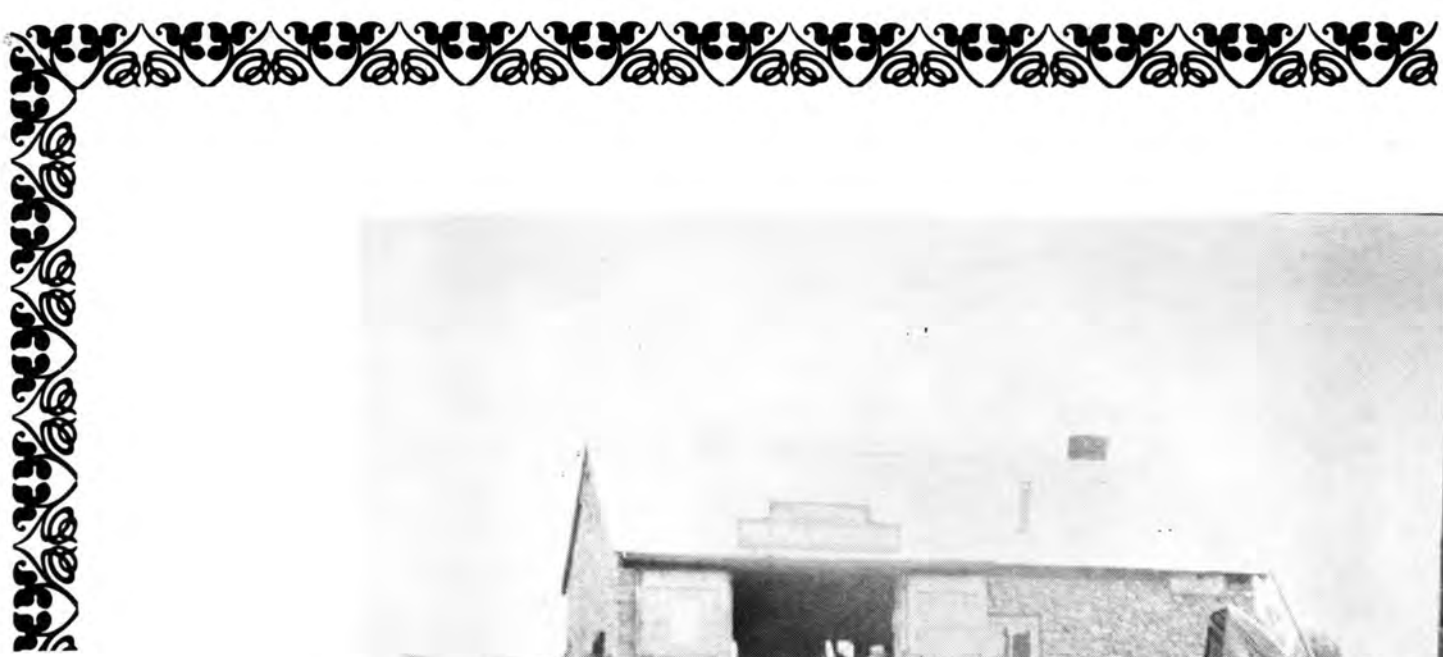
Egg	5
Ham	5
Cheese	5
Ham and Egg	10
Hamburg	5
Roast Pork	5
Roast Beef	5

RELISHES

Lettuce	5
Green Onions	5
Radishes	5
Sliced Cucumbers	10
Sliced Tomatoes	10
Celery	10
Queen Olives	10

CEREALS

Oatmeal with Cream	10
Force with Cream	10
Shredded Wheat with Cream	10
Bread and Milk	10
Milk and Crackers	10
Buttered Toast	5



Cobblestone blacksmith shop

The old cobblestone blacksmith shop located on the south side of Ridge Road just east of Culver Road, was built in 1830 by Ransford Perrin. It remained a blacksmith shop until the automobiles took over and then was gradually converted into a garage. Today a furniture refinisher occupies this old landmark. Located diagonally across from Swayne's Tavern, our first "town hall", the old blacksmith shop was long a favorite meeting place for gossip and politics.



LONG AGO AT SEA BREEZE-----This picture dates from 1902, one year before the first ride opened at the Park. To the right is the old Lake Shore Hotel, built in the 1880s. Later it became Geisler's, still remembered for fine food. Idled by the Depression, it was destroyed by fire in 1944. Up the hill (right center) is the Pavillion, opened in 1889 and a popular spot until it burned twenty years later.

of Mrs. Eleanor Dunkelburg.)

(Picture by courtesy



This is how the northwest corner of Titus and Cooper looked eighty-five years ago. To the left is the old W.C.T.U. Hall, long the social center for westside Irondequoit. The United Church

of Christ now stands on this spot. To the right is the old District 3 School, which stood where the Lincoln Rochester West Irondequoit Branch now stands.



From what is now the corner of Lafayette Road and looking east toward the Bay, Clifford Avenue (now Empire Boulevard) looked like this in 1907. It was then farmland through which ran the interurban trolley between Rochester and Sodus by way of Glen Haven. The railing of the bridge over these tracks is visible just beyond the farmhouse. Today only the farmhouse remains;

it is now the Sudore residence at the corner of Empire and Shelford. In the fields beyond have been built (to your right) the Laurelton Fire House and the United Presbyterian Church and (to your left) Slim's Marine Supply and the Empire Shopping Plaza shopping center. Across the far side of the valley in the picture now runs the Sea Breeze Expressway. (Walter Sassaman, Town Historian.)



A vacation at the lake

Back at the turn of the century the Lake Shore Hotel stood on piles on the beach at the end of Culver Road in Sea Breeze. Here mama and the kids stayed all week long, while papa

commuted to his job in Rochester on the old RW&O. Bath houses were available but they cost a big-1900 nickle.



CAN YOU REMEMBER when the Irondequoit Shopping Plaza ran from Keys Drugs to the Star Market. . .and that was all?



TWICE IN THE SAME SPOT. About 1910 when this trolley speeding north on Portland failed to make the turn east on Ridge Road it was not the first time Schooley's Hotel entertained an uninvited guest in this fashion; at 3 p.m., on Sunday afternoon, April 30, 1899, the old Dummy Line train did exactly the same thing. Aside from the feelings

of the motorman (standing hands in pocket and much embarrassed) no one suffered in the second accident, but one death and over a hundred injuries resulted from the 1899 disaster. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Photo by courtesy of William Gordon.)



WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? The "What?" is easy; it's an early Irondequoit Road. The "When?" is fairly certain; around 1900 is a good surmise. But the "Where?" is a bit uncertain; most likely this is an old road that ran east from Helendale to the Bay. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Mrs. George Costich Sr.)



SEA BREEZE SWEEPSTAKES. When spring came in 1926 these riders lined up in the side yard of 37 Woodman St. (now Rode Drive) for the first race of the season: (l. to r.) Dolores Volz, Jane

Rode, Carl Rode and Shirley Volz. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Mrs. Jane Rode LeClair.)



ONCE PUBLIC, NOW PRIVATE. For over a hundred years the old Bay View Hotel served allcomers; now in 1976 half-completed, partly occupied private apartments occupy this space. Our picture was taken soon after the Bay View opened in 1872 when a camera was still somewhat of a novelty and all the summer guests and even the bar trade were willing to line up for a picture. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman.



THE PATH OF GOLD. These four be-whiskered riders look as if they might be starting out for the gold diggings of California. But they're really four prominent Grangers helping celebrate the 1936 inauguration of St. Paul Boulevard's new "Path of Gold." This was a newly developed system of street illumination and our 105 Sodium Vapor Lamps was the largest installation in the nation. The Town took three days to celebrate and representing Irondequoit Grange No. 842 in the big parade were (l. to r.) Allen Dye, Warren Smallridge, William Thorne and Edward Spittal ...

Unfortunately (and in a town even then loaded with engineers and technical experts!) nobody had been warned that anybody viewed under a sodium vapor lamp tends to look like something that has crawled out of a very, very ancient grave. History reports that despite this a great time was had by all ... but so far I haven't found any record of how long the Town tolerated the ghastly light before replacing the Sodium Lamps. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Pictured by courtesy of Allen Dye.)



THE MONTH IS JUNE. Back in 1925 when this picture was taken, nearly all of Irondequoit was used for market gardening and June was one of the busy months. Our picture shows Henry Miller whose firm was located on low-lying Seneca Flats; Henry is ditching one of his field to make certain that any excess water will drain away. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture and data by courtesy of Chuck Miller.)



PRIZE-WINNING LETTUCE is shown to the Monroe County Agricultural agent by farmer Fred Metcalfe in this 1920 photograph. The Metcalfe greenhouses then grew winter lettuce at 501 Ridge Rd. E. The greenhouses and their fine produce were a source of great pride for local farmers. Photograph courtesy of Wilbur Hill.



THE OLD IRONDEQUOIT CHAPEL stood on Culver Road where the Irondequoit Presbyterian Church now stands. Organized in 1856 as a "sunday school," this interdenominational all-age group was for six decades the center for the religious and social life of eastern Irondequoit. For three decades its meetings were held in the old frame

school located where the brick Adventist School now stands. Then in 1890 the cornerstone was laid for the building shown in our picture. In 1914 the old Sunday School disbanded and the Church organized. Finally in 1926 the Chapel was torn down and the present church structure started. Town Historian Walter Sassaman.



THE ONLY RIDES IN SEA BREEZE PARK were the Figure Eight Coaster, built in 1903, and the Merry-Go-Round which had just been built by George Long's father when this picture was taken in 1904. These stood near where the Jack Rabbit

now starts. The water tower had supplied the Dummy Line steam engines before these were replaced by trolleys in 1900. (Photo by courtesy of Mrs. Myrtle Kreckman.)



THE EIGHTH GRADE, DURAND EASTMAN SCHOOL, in 1921 had 13 members: (row near chalkboard) Albert Strong, Harold Niblack, Helen Fleig (Nichols), Elizabeth Bradstreet (Walsh); (middle row) Frederick Warters, Arthur Pundt, Ruth Mellor (--), Minnie Schlegel, Donald Fish;

(row on right) Bert Van Horn, Violet Mellor, Edward Walters, Franklin Buyck. Three teachers (not in the picture), Mabel McCrossen, Gertrude Briddon and Myrtle Mills (Johnson) divided the subjects taught. (Picture and identification by courtesy of Mrs. Helen Nichols.)



BIG LABOR DAY WEEKEND. From before WWI to the Great Depression the Pier Hotel stood on the beach at Sea Breeze. Before the automobile changed things Labor Day weekend brought the crowds to Sea Breeze and the Pier Hotel would employ 50 to 60 waiters, serve 1,200 lbs. of hot dogs, 2 wagon loads of rolls and bread, 100 barrels of beer and almost a ton of fish! Our picture shows only the Pier's "Wine Garden." The rest of this hotel ran from the right margin of our picture back to the railroad embankment. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Data supplied by the late Art Busch.)



ST. PAUL BOULEVARD, WINTER OF 1914-15. After every heavy snowfall a trolley plow had to clear the Rochester-Summerville trolley tracks which then ran along each side of St. Paul Boulevard. This plow is headed south along the east side of the Boulevard on what were normally the north-

bound tracks. In the background is visible the William G. Leake farmhouse which stood on the west side of St. Paul, just south of the present LeGran Road. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Mrs. Olivette Leake Gustafson.)



OUR PIONEER HOOKER CEMETERY. The women and men who pioneered Irondequoit lie buried in this old Cemetery, located next to the Keeler Xway and surrounded by the grounds of St. Anne's Home. Prior to 1895 it was the Town's only cemetery; last burial was in 1911. Neglected and vandalized, it was bulldozed in the early 1960s. Today it is being restored, but many of the old stones (as for example those of the Rudman Plot shown here) may possibly never be recovered.
- Town Historian Walter Sassaman.

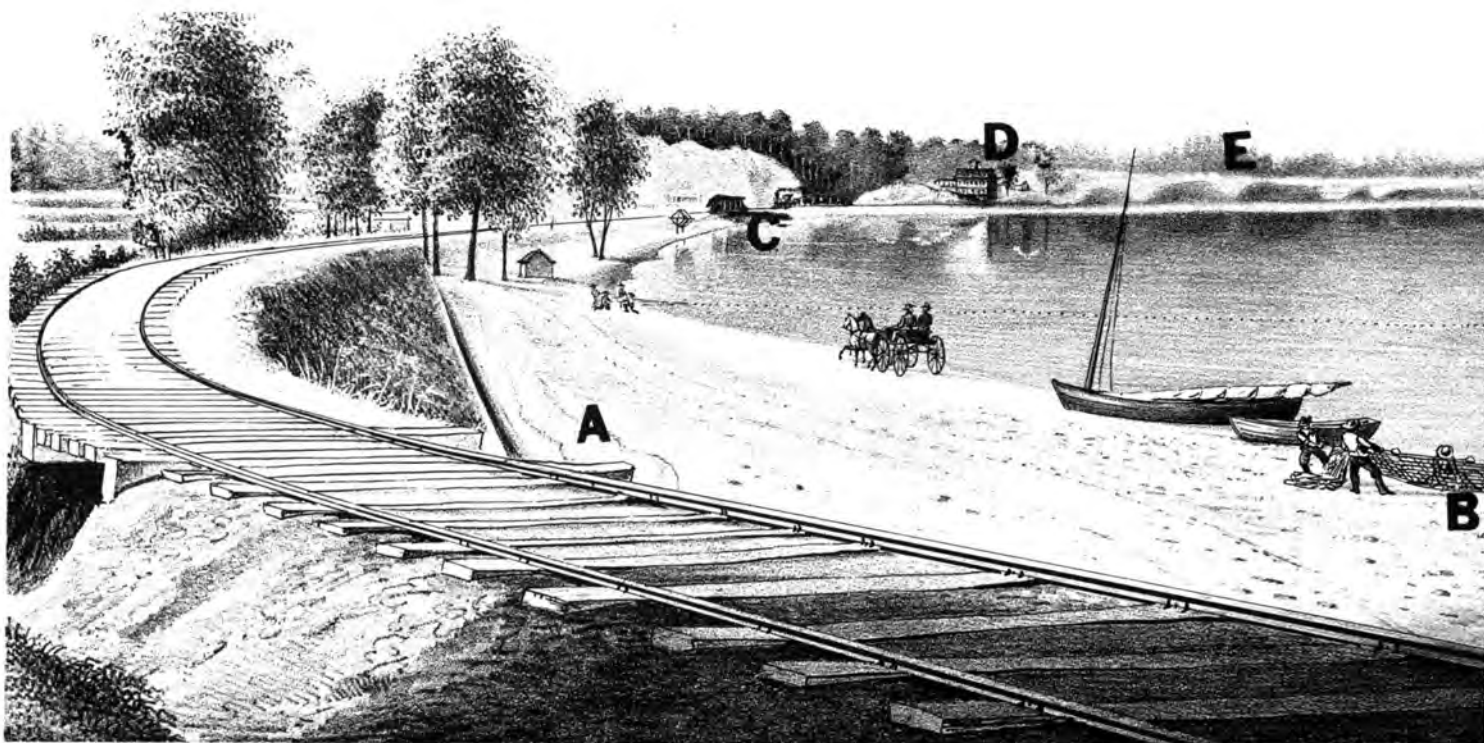


A LONG-TIME RIDGE ROAD FARM. This farm and barn (but not the windmill) still stand at 876 East Ridge R., just west of Stanton Lane. Back in 1892 it was farmed by market gardener Charles B. Heffer; in 1973 the market gardener is Ray DeVos.

Left to right are: Sarah Scott Heffer, Grace Heffer (Hickson), Susie Heffer (Hallauer), Alice Heffer (Howard), Charles B. Heffer and Susan

Scott.

Early in the 1900s Charles Heffer had the buggy you see in our picture converted to a horseless carriage, but after two trips he had the motor removed and from then until his death in 1929 he remained loyal to his horse and buggy. Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Charles Hickson.)

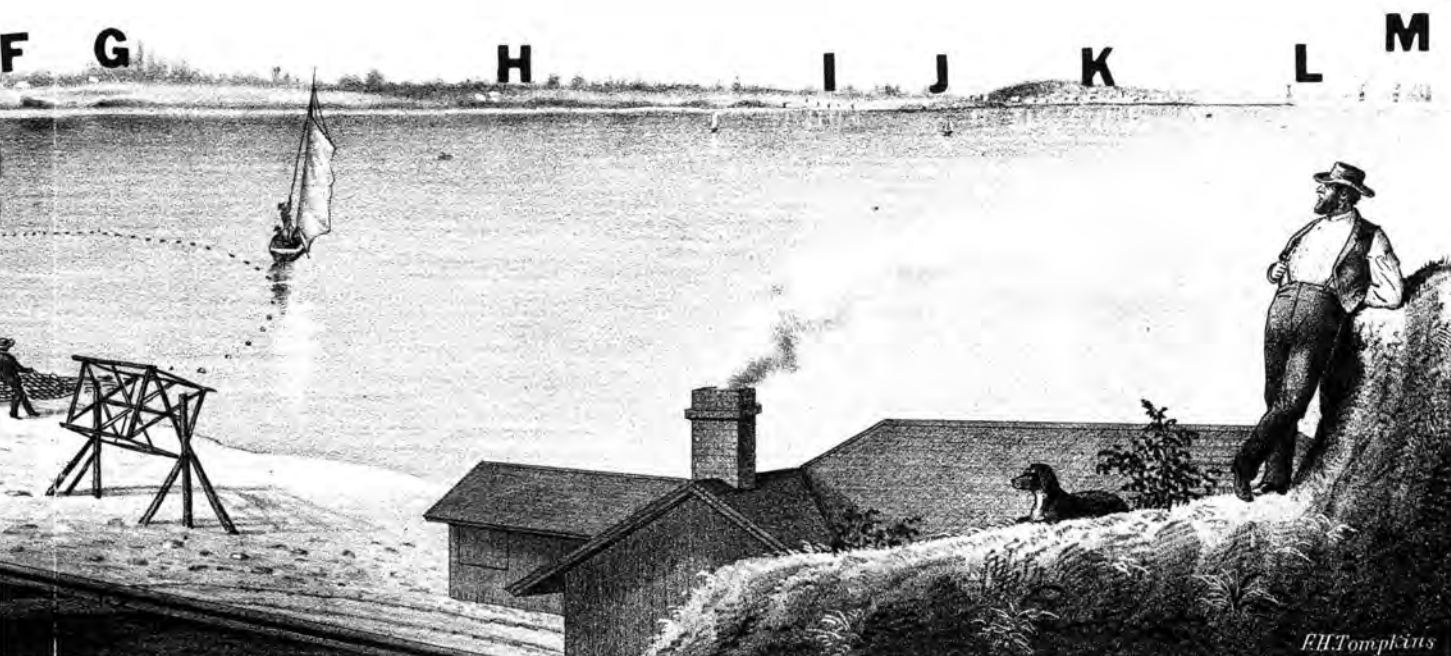


IN 1876 WHEN IRONDEQUOIT was celebrating the Centennial its lake shore looked like this as seen from (A) Oklahoma Beach, then as now reached from Lake Road, Webster, under a bridge on the (then) RW&O. This used to be favorite spot for (B) commercial fishing. Note the net carried into place by the boat, dropped and then hauled to shore by the two teams of four men. Toleration of "anything for a fast buck" fishing has long since stripped the Lake of the white fish and sturgeon once plentiful. At (C) a RW&O train is headed east and about to cross the bridge over the Outlet. The old Sea Breeze Hotel (1865-1885), Irondequoit's first major recreation spot, is at (D). The three little white dots at (E) are buildings on what was then the Jedediah White farm and now the Reunion at 4565 Culver Rd. At (F) are three buildings still standing at 47, 21 and 11 Lake Bluff Road.



OFF TO A PICNIC at Durand-Eastman Beach are (l. to r.) Russell and Margaret Hallauer and Beatrice and Paul Graffrath (average age, 11 years) with Princess doing the work. But when they reach the beach Princess will be unharnessed

and will roll in the lake while the four youngsters go swimming! This picture was taken on Titus Avenue just east of Cooper Road (the old Cooper Homestead is visible behind Princess); the date is 1919. (Picture by courtesy of Margaret Hallauer.)



No. 47 is the old Davis Summer home, possibly the earliest lakeshore house in Irondequoit; it is currently being demolished. Nos. 21 and 11 have been extensively remodeled. (G) is the house still standing (remodeled) at 345 Birch Hills Dr. Long-gone farm buildings in what is now Durand-Eastman Park are at (H) and at (I) are early homes along what is now Rock Beach Road. The two white dots at (J) are the old Lake Bluff Hotel and an unidentified building in the White City area. The sizable village at (K) is Charlotte, with its light house at (L) and a steamer and two schooners approaching the mouth of the Genesee at (M). Could a camera have recorded this scene any better or even as well? - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (This picture will be found between pages 214 and 215 in McIntosh's History of Monroe County - 1877, a long out-of-print volume now in reprint.)



SEA BREEZE BEACH, 1910. To the left is the "Old Pier" (a pier at Sea Breeze appears on the maps as early as 1887). To the right is the "New Pier" built in 1905. The three buildings, l. to r., are: Moore's Merry-Go-Round, a tin type Photo Gallery and the Pier Hotel. On the left is the old

Ferris Wheel. In 1918 the Merry-Go-Round and Ferris Wheel moved across to the south side of Culver Road when the court decided they had been operating on N.Y. Central property. (Photograph by courtesy of Myrtle Kreckman.)



Rudman's peach orchard

Irondequoit was once almost as famous for its orchards as it was for its market gardens. One of the finest was Roy and William Rudman's peach orchard. This once occupied all of the land to the west of Oakview Drive from Titus Avenue

to Thornton Road (west of List) and the northern portion of Upland Drive. These are some of the Rudman wagons ready to start off for the market in Rochester.



A FLEA MARKET FIND! A picture of the original Forest House has long been known. But this picture came from an old letterhead and was marred by several lines of type. Some months ago Alan Dietch found the cut from which the picture on the

letterhead was printed. The original Forest House (1866-1904) stood at the northeast corner of Ridge and Culver. It replaced Swayne's Tavern (1842-66) and was followed by the second Forest House (1907-57). (Print by courtesy of Alan Dietch.)



OPENING DAY IN DURAND EASTMAN PARK---- It was Oct. 9, 1909 when the general public was officially welcomed to the newly-opened Durand-Eastman Park. The "parking lot" here shown has since been flooded by Durand Lake. The photographer stood to the south of the present refresh-

ment stand across from the abandoned bath houses and pointed his camera northeast to the road then under construction to connect Culver Road with the beach. Also in the background is a road since replaced by the "Zoo" road, but still visible in the undergrowth.



ENJOYING HIS REST is Edwin Todd who has been ditching Lincoln Avenue (now Tone Terrace) after some exceptionally heavy rains. This was in 1904,

back in the days when White City was still a summer tent colony. -Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Edwin Spelman.)



THE CLAMBAKE is an ancient feast of the ocean-side Indians who taught its secrets to the first New England settlers, whose children brought this traditional October festival to Irondequoit. The original (and superior) Pit Clambake used a 4 foot wide, 18 inch deep hole, stone lined in which a fire burned for several hours. The hot stones were then lined with wet cornstalks, cheesecloth bags of clams, corn, chicken and potatoes dropped in, covered with canvas and this covered with sand.

Five or six hours later the feasting began. Early in this century the labor-saving (and inferior) Steam Clambake replaced the Pit Clambake. Our picture shows an early homemade steamer in operation on the old Leake farm, 3053 St. Paul Blvd., just before this was subdivided in 1913.- Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Olivette Leake Gustafson, data on the Pit Clambake by Frank Grant.)



WHEN WINTER CAME Walter Schneeberger garaged his Vim truck and Nelly took over the milk delivery. Nelly knew the route just as well as did Pete Johnsen, her driver. While Pete was cutting through back yards, dropping off his bottles, Nelly would go around the block and meet him coming out on the next street. Nelly also knew which was the

last stop and from then on Pete had no complaints about Nelly's speed; both were glad to reach the Schneeberger Dairy at 296 Bay View Road, especially in winter. The date of our picture is 1924.- Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture and data by courtesy of Paul Schneeberger.)



During the years 1925-31 the Natatorium, the world's largest salt water swimming pool (125 ft. x 300 ft.) was located in Sea Breeze Park. Our picture shows every step (save the "Big Splash") in the enjoyment of one of its chief

attractions: renting a toboggan, climbing the steps, launching your toboggan, coasting down..and wading back to do it all over again. (Walter Sassaman, Town Historian.)



SENECA METHODIST CHURCH. This picture was taken a few days before the first service was held in the just completed first church building on October 30, 1932. Mr. Frederick Wyatt, president of the Rochester Lumber Co., donated the lot and erected the building at cost--\$7600.00! Just com-

pleting a final inspection are three of the charter members: (l. to r.) Mrs. Cecil Wilson, wife of the first minister, Mrs. Christian Schmitt, and Mrs. Charles Brightman. (Walter Sassaman, Town Historian)



RIDGE ROAD IN 1899----Workmen with hoes apply the first surface to Ridge Road in 1899. Prior to that date, the road was dirt or mud. Width of

the first surface was adequate to allow the passage of two wagons. The gravel was pressed with a steam roller, but no binder was applied.



BACK FROM A GAY WINTER'S RIDE in their 1913 Buick (affectionately known as the "White Streak") are Maude West, then principal of District Three's Union Free School, and brother Russell, expert with a right hand drive. Neither seems in the

least bothered by the type of air-conditioning Detroit built into its cars in those days! - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Maude I. West.)



SPRING COMES TO ST. PAUL BOULEVARD---- Guarded by her dog, little Olivette Leake is crossing the trolley tracks in front of the old William Gilbert Leake farmhouse at 3053 St. Paul Blvd. She is well bundled up against the

still-cool spring weather and there are no autos to fear; Olivette will have a nice walk and get safely home. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Olivette Leake Gustafson)



IRONDEQUOIT'S FIRST TOWN HALL. Between 1928 and 1950 the biennial January 1st swearing-in of Town Boards (and all other Town Hall activities) took place in this building still standing at 1382 (then 1340) East Ridge Road. Between 1917 and 1928 Town Boards held their meetings at the Forest House; between 1907 and 1917 meetings moved around the circle from the Auer

Hotel, Ridge Road near Clinton (until this became part of Rochester in 1914) to Englert's Hotel, Ridge and Portland, to the Forest House, Ridge and Culver and then around again. Prior to 1907 the record fades away since the usual practice was for town officials to take the records with them when they left office. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman.



THE OLD WINDSOR FERRY, 70 feet long and 50 feet wide, was powered by a 20 h.p. engine which pulled it back and forth along a chain stretched between Summerville and Charlotte. The remains of its Summerville slip can still be found next to the powerline tower visible in our picture. The Windsor, replacing earlier and more primitive

ferries (185-93) went into service (during the ice-free months only) in 1894. The Stutson Street Bridge, opened in 1918 and usable year-round, put it out of business in the mid-20s. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Mrs. Dorothy Reardon.)



Nov. 11, 1918, the day the "War To End All Wars" ended, the Sea Breeze kids organized their own Armistice Day Parade. Billy the Goat led them and they went all the way up Culver Road from Sea Breeze to the Forest House, then standing at Ridge and Culver. The day was cold and blustery and some of the marchers were spanked and sent to bed when worried mothers finally located them. Front row

(l. to r.): Lois Niblack, Harold LaBori, Sam Bradstreet Jr., Tomy Bartholomay, Nathaniel Bartholomay and Doris Niblack (Anderson); rear row: Betty Bradstreet (Walsh), Thelma Ohlau (Latus), Allison Bradstreet (Borland), Freddie Warters, and Harold Niblack. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Pictures and identification by courtesy of Mrs. Allison Bradstreet Borland.)



BEFORE AND AFTER. Above is the way the White City homes at the bend in St. Paul Boulevard looked before fire broke out on Oct. 31, 1908.

Below is what remained after the fire, having destroyed 40 homes, was finally brought under control. (Pictures by courtesy of William Gordon.)



HOT WEATHER CURE. This bathing beauty looks as if she is about to dive into a 1915 clean Lake Ontario from a pile near the old Lake View Hotel, a resort which once stood partly on the beach and partly over the water at the point where Culver Road reaches the Lake. Some of these piles are still visible at low water but there are a number of reasons why no one is likely to do any diving from them today: (1) 60 years of wave action have worn these piles into nubbins, (2) you may not care for the condition of the lake water, and (3) the water around these piles is and always has been too shallow for any diving, other than belly-flopping, and the truth is that our bathing beauty is only posing for a picture! - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Mrs. Dora Stoll.)



WHEN THE IRONDEQUOIT SOCIAL CLUB had a sleigh-ride party and dance at the old Forest House (northeast corner of Ridge and Culver) on Tuesday evening, February the 4th, 1896, this was their dance card. Twenty-six dances are listed including a Grand March, Leap Year Waltz, Quadrille, Oxford Minuet, Lancers, Schottische, Caledonia, Two Step, Monnie Musk, Basket Quadrille, Polka and Aurora. How many of those can you dance?--Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Program Card a gift from Mrs. Joseph Villard.)



SENECA SCHOOL IN 1897. The old District Four School stood close to St. Paul Boulevard (then called St. Paul Street). It had a "boy's door" and a "girl's door", a coal shed in the rear and a total enrollment of thirty-eight with a teaching staff of one! Left to right in the back row are: Martha Opperman, Art Miller, . . . , Art Barrett, Miss Sage, Arthur Stanton, Addie Morley, Willie Stanton. Second from back: Gustie Swader, Orsen Dwyer, Abie Van Wykhouse, Julia Barrett, Ed

Marks, John List, Libby List, Art Gibson, Nattie Cort, Walter Camping, Lottie Barrett. Middle Row: Mary Josh, . . . , Lillian Marks, Kittle Roller, . . . Gibson, Louise Nordoff, Anna Baur. Kneeling: Willie Kort, Alfred Marks, Dan Van Wykhouse, Alfred List, Mary Van Wykhouse, Billie Miller, Freda Baur, Elizabeth Gade, Alida Penlon, Emma Miller. Seated: . . . Gibson, . . . , Ferdinand List. (Pictures and identification by Mrs. Louise Nordhoff.)



GETTING READY FOR WINTER. Some friends are helping Alfred Leake, 911 Thomas Ave., lay in some of his winter's fuel supply. The old saying

used to be that if you burned wood it warmed you twice, the first time being when you sawed it. (Photo by courtesy of Mrs. Olivette Leake Gustafson.)



RE-CYCLING, 1910, was from the fields as grain to the barn as a meal for the horses and then, in part, back to the fields again. Our picture shows John Preston's manure wagon halted on Brower Road on its way from the barn to his

nursery farm fields. Today the cycle starts underground as irreplaceable oil is consumed in some truck as gasoline and deadends, in part, as poison in the air! (Picture by courtesy of Mrs. John H. Garland.)



PRE-WWI SUMMER THEATER, "Hiawatha" was the play put on by the Tuscaroras in Sea Breeze Park two summers prior to 1914. For its stage the cast used the pond which is now part of "Over the Falls" and one bank of the pond while the audience sat on bleachers on the other side. The star posed

between performances while a young admirer took this picture. "Hiawatha" proved so popular that the Park continued to put on "free shows" for over fifty years. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Norma Boes.)



Boating on the Bay

In 1901 the Bay was as clean as the uniforms of the members of the famous old Unique Social Club. Their clubhouse still stands, as one of the private homes located on Bay Shore Boulevard. These "social clubs" once flourished all around the Bay. They were mostly cooperative summer vacation clubs; each member's family occupied the club house in turn, usually for one week. But all members and their guests were welcome on week-ends!

*Have a Rogers
 Building Co. } Please pay to the Rochester
 Brick & Tile Manufg. Co. the sum
 of Eighty-five dollars for Brick delivered
 for School House No. 3. in the town of
 Irondequoit.
 John Mauley.
 Sept 28th 1861.*

BRICKS FOR A SCHOOL cost \$85.00 in 1861 when a one-room brick school was erected at the corner of Titus and Cooper where the bank now stands. This replaced a frame school that

had stood on the other side of Cooper (then "Lower Hudson") since 1840. Today there are ten schools in what was then "District Three". (Town Historian Walter Sassaman.)



THE OLD COBBLESTONE SCHOOLHOUSE stood on the east side of Culver Road just north of Merchants Road. Students started learning their three Rs in it in 1844. Sixty-eight years later in 1912 its students began going to a new Pardee School (on what is now

Empire Boulevard, a building now part of the Laurelton Fire House) and the old Cobblestone School House was torn down to make way for Culver Parkway. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman.



To market & back...

His wallet full of cash and his wagon empty of produce, William A. Heffer starts home from market on a sunny summer's day in 1912. One thing is for sure; it was either a Tuesday, a Thursday or a Saturday for on those three days

nearly every Irondequoit farmer drove to market in Rochester. For over one hundred years the Heffers farmed most of the land along the north side of the Ridge between Portland Avenue and Stanton Lane. (Walter Sassaman, Town Historian.)



A CORNERSTONE AND A MILESTONE. On May 30, 1926 when the guests arrived at the United Church of Christ at Titus Ave. and Cooper Rd., religious services had already been held at this spot for 76 years, having started in 1850 with an interdenominational Sunday School in the old District Three School, then standing where the Lincoln First Bank now stands. In 1884 this Sunday School moved next door to a newly-erected WCTU Hall. Then in 1911 the Sunday School became Irondequoit's first church. Finally in 1926 when the little brick structure which is now the core of today's Sunday School wing became too small today's main structure was added, another milestone in this 125 year old institution. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman.



A SAD LITTLE HAPPY GIRL----William Leake, an Irondequoit pioneer whose farm was on Summerville Boulevard (now St. Paul Boulevard) just south of Legran Road, had a little granddaughter Olivette, shown here in 1917. To have her picture taken made Olivette a very happy little girl. But when she learned that she would have to give that beautiful doll back to the photographer you will notice that a bit of sadness got mixed up with the happiness. (Walter Sassaman, Town Historian.)



SEA BREEZE FIREMEN took part in the fall parade of the Fire Associations of Western New York in 1909. The vehicle is not a fire truck, but the grocery delivery wagon of the Kleindiens

Grocery Store in Sea Breeze. The Fire Department then depended upon hand-drawn chemical wagons. The first fire truck was not purchased until 1918. Photograph courtesy of Bill Doran.



BUTCHERING PIGS IN 1890----Pork roasts did not come neatly wrapped in plastic in the early days in Irondequoit. Here, wielding butchering knives, are George List, Reuben Biety, Adolph List, William Klem and Henry Camping.



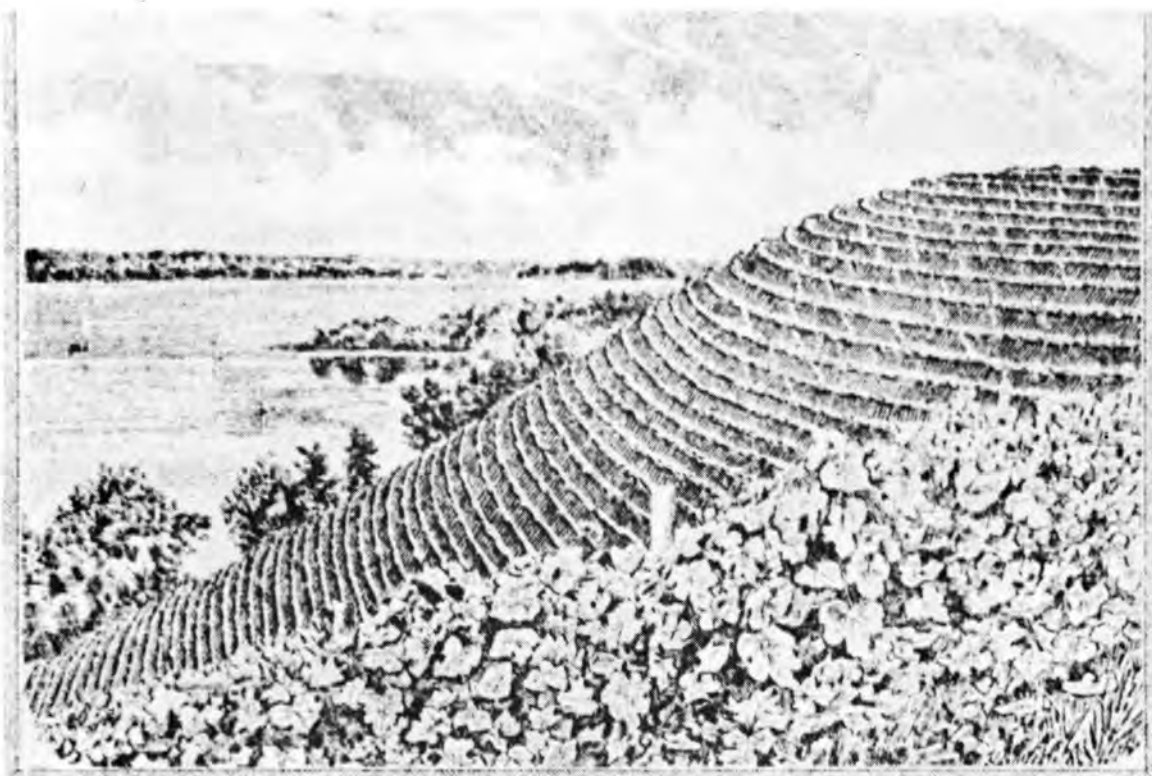
LE GRAN ROAD looked like this in 1920 when the newly married George and Laura Thompson built their first home at No. 137. George Thompson was one of Irondequoit's carpenters; Laura was the daughter of pioneer William Leake. The old

Leake farm had been to the south and the old GRANT farm to the north of LE GRAN Road and that is how this street got its name. (Photograph by courtesy of Ollivette Leake Gustafson.)



XMAS AT WHITE CITY, Lawrence Morrow and Floyd Bortle are displaying gifts of guns, drums, toy artillerymen and a box of wooden soldiers; it is 1911 and the sad lesson of the War To End All Wars is still three years away. But Lawrence also can

play engineer with that boy-size locomotive while Floyd plays motorman with the trolley standing beside his gun. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Edwin Spelman.)



THE VINEYARDS OF THE IRONDEQUOIT WINE COMPANY were located on the shores of Irondequoit Bay just south of the Newport House. Planted before 1840 by Joseph Vinton they were taken over in 1865 by Asa McBride who then built a

winery. The wine company continued in operation until 1942 and appears to have been Irondequoit's most profitable single enterprise! The picture dates from around 1900. (Town Historian, Walter Sassaman.)



FISHING IN THE SPRINGTIME. Even before all the ice was out from Little Massaug Cove little Ruth Young went fishing. Sunfish, perch, and bullheads were her usual catch. Once when high water left pools in her front yard Ruth watched the little bullheads hatch out. The picture dates from about

1913. Since then de-icing salt and detergent phosphate have made quite a change in the Bay's waters but there are still plenty of fish there. Town Historian Walter Sassaman. (Picture by courtesy of Mrs. Ruth Young Mibaum.)



DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE BOY? Standing behind the merry-go-round horse, wearing knickers and a cap, is one of Irondequoit's most famous citizens, George Long. A few years before this picture was taken George's father, who had long moved from amusement park to amusement park with the seasons, settled in Sea Breeze so that George could have uninterrupted schooling. All this was many years before George became owner of the whole of Sea Breeze Amusement Park and a famous carver of merry-go-round horses. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman.

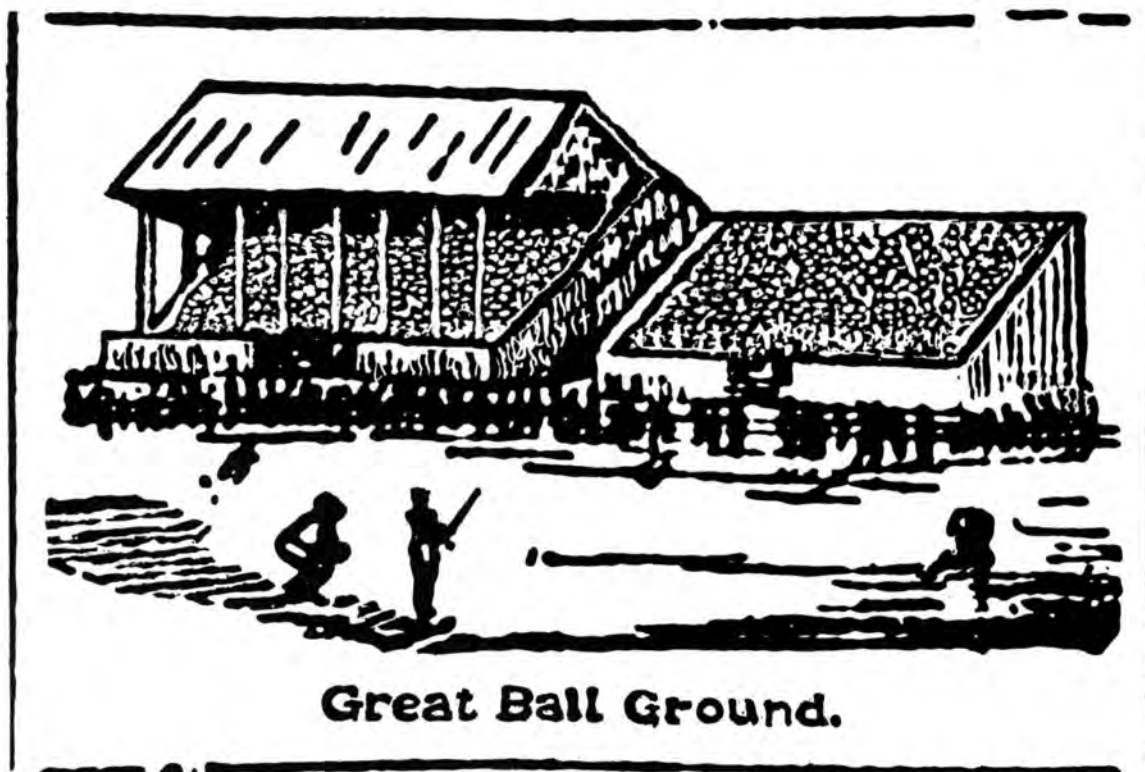


YOU'RE UP IN THE AIR over Culver and Ridge looking east along Ridge Road towards the Bay. . . They are just starting to build the Culver-Ridge Plaza. . . there are no signs of Eastridge High School. . . but you can find Ridgewood Middle School. . . and the Sea Breeze Expressway ends at Ridge Road. . . it's the late 1940s! - Town Historian Walter Sassaman.



VINTAGE IRONDEQUOIT BUILDING---This building at Culver and Park Roads, now the home of Fame Lodge No. 945, F & AM, was build in 1914 by the Sea Breeze Christian Society. The Society was already a year old, having met in private homes each Sunday. In 1918 it became the First

Congregational Church of Sea Breeze and Vicinity, continuing to use this building until 1930 when the move to the present site occured. The picture dates from the early '20s. (Picture and data by Mrs. William Arthur, Church Historian.)



THE WINDSOR BEACH BALL PARK IN 1888 was the biggest in Western New York. The stands held 3,000 and the grounds had room for 20,000 standees. Here the Rochester ball team played on week-ends with the trains bringing thousands of fans from the city to this diamond on the lake shore at Summerville. There were even nighttime games with some of the earliest electric arc lights illuminating the diamond; the ball grounds had their own power station, slightly larger than an over-sized hen house! But all this faded away after week-end baseball was legalized in Rochester. - Town Historian Walter Sassaman.



ST. PAUL BOULEVARD looked like this in 1918. The view is north from a point near the present Somershire Drive. To the right are the north-bound trolley tracks; the southbound tracks are

hidden by the grass to the left. The trees came down when the sidewalks were laid some years later. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Olivette Leake Gustafson.)



THE END OF "EARLY IRONDEQUOIT" came when the population exploded and the automobile arrived. Soon a suburb with its housing developments had buried the old Irondequoit market gardens, with fathers increasingly driving away to work. Our picture shows a proud Irondequoit family with their first automobile; the chance are that they now consider a picnic at Sea Breeze or Summerville or down at the Bay far too tame and that they are headed, at the very least, for Letchworth or possibly the Adirondacks or maybe even Yellowstone. . . and "Early Irondequoit" where families worked and played and lived together is on its way out! - Town Historian Walter Sassaman.

